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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : (U.S. National Phase Appln.  
based on PCT/JP2005/000946)  
Applicant : Yoshimichi HINO et al  
Filed : Concomitantly herewith  
For : HEAT-TREATMENT APPARATUS  
FOR STEEL PLATE AND  
MANUFACTURING LINE...  
Docket No. : 06397/HG  
Customer No.: 01933

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Date of Deposit: July 20, 2006

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Lori Valdes

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED  
CONCOMITANT WITH APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendment to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.